

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking the Cobb County sheriff's office for its commitment to getting dangerous, criminal, illegal immigrants out of our community.

#### THE IRAQ WAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KLEIN of Florida). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, last week President Bush defended his war in Iraq saying it would be a disaster if we left. Well, if the President doesn't know it by now, we already have a disaster on our hands.

Allow me to read a few headlines from the past week to give everyone a sense of how well the war is progressing:

The Washington Post, June 18, 2007, General Petraeus: "Iraq 'Challenges' to Last for Years."

New York Times, June 16, 2007, "In Iraq Secretary Gates Says Progress Toward Peace is Lagging."

New York Times, June 13, 2007, "Violence Rising in Much of Iraq, Pentagon Says."

MSNBC.com, March 17, 2006, "Cost of Iraq War could surpass \$1 trillion. Of course, the estimates vary but all agree price is far higher than initially expected."

A Pentagon report released last week gave a grim outlook of the situation in Iraq. While the number of U.S. troops on the ground reached a record high as a result of the President's so-called troop surge, violence in Iraq has continued to increase. In fact, since the surge was announced, 500 American troops have been killed. According to the report, much of the violence that plagues Iraq is attributable to "sectarian friction and each faction is driven by its own political and economic power relationships."

Further, "Illegally armed groups are engaged in a cycle of sectarian and politically motivated violence, using tactics that include indiscriminate bombing, murder, executions and indirect fire to intimidate and provoke sectarian conflict."

Simply put, Iraq is a full-fledged civil war.

The number of suicide attacks in Iraq has increased from 26 in January to 58 in March and April. Remember IEDs, that is, improvised explosive devices? Now insurgents are increasingly using a more advanced type of IED called EFPs, or explosively formed projectiles, to kill our soldiers. These new bombs are being used in rapidly increasing numbers and are extremely effective at piercing the armor of our Humvees, tanks, and troop transports, causing mass casualties. As of today, there have been 3,526 U.S. deaths; there have been 26,000 Americans wounded, some very serious; 60,000 to 100,000 Iraqi civilians have died; and there are over 1,000 attacks per week, on average, and steadily growing.

We have spent over \$435 billion of taxpayer money. The total cost to our economy could be upwards of \$1 trillion to \$2 trillion.

It is time to face the facts. Bombs and bullets have not and will not bring us peace in Iraq.

In January, I, along with my colleagues BARBARA LEE and LYNN WOOLSEY, introduced H.R. 508, the "Bring the Troops Home and Iraq Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2007." This bill repeals the authorization of force in Iraq, requires a complete withdrawal of troops within 6 months, and puts Iraq on a path to sovereignty and peace. This bill seeks to end the cycle of violence that has plagued Iraq since we began this occupation.

There is bipartisan opposition to the war in Iraq, and a majority of Americans not only think President Bush is doing a poor job handling the situation in Iraq, but a majority also support setting a timetable for withdrawal. Our constituents sent us a strong message in November and continue to demand an end to this war.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we in Congress have the courage to bring this war in Iraq to an end.

#### DR. AL SIMONE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KUHLM) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KUHLM of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Dr. Al Simone, an outstanding individual in the community of Rochester, New York. Dr. Simone retires this month from the presidency of the Rochester Institute of Technology. He was RIT's eighth president, the eighth in 177 years.

Dr. Simone came to Rochester from a place where the weather is a little bit more predictable. He was the president of the University of Hawaii system and chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Manoa for 9 years.

Dr. Simone has led RIT to become the one of the Nation's leading career-oriented universities with 15,500 students from all 50 States and more than 100 foreign countries, 2,800 faculty and staff, and an annual operating budget of more than \$490 million. RIT is now the tenth largest private university in the Nation in terms of full-time undergraduate enrollment. The endowment has climbed to more than \$570 million during his tenancy.

Dr. Simone is a prolific writer and has written several books and numerous journal publications on the application of mathematics, statistics, and computers to economics and business. In fact, Dr. Simone is collecting data and information for a book right now on higher education, which he expects to write within the next few years during his retirement on the sunny shores of Keuka Lake.

Dr. Simone is a real trailblazer. He was the first American university

president, for instance, to officially visit North Korea, Vietnam, and Vladivostok when these areas were closed to the United States except for cultural and educational exchange.

A native of Boston, Dr. Simone received his B.A. in economics from Tufts University and his Ph.D. in economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He has taught at Tufts, MIT, Northeastern University, Boston College, Boston University, University of Cincinnati, and the University of Hawaii.

The community will certainly miss Al's leadership and I know I will miss working with him.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join me in wishing him and his wife, Carolie, a long, happy, healthy retirement with their children and their grandchildren.

#### THE RED INK KEEPS GETTING DEEPER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the topic of my remarks tonight will be "The Red Ink Keeps Getting Deeper."

If we look at the trade procedure the Bush administration wants Congress to pass called Fast Track, we should know that it is shorthand for Congress blindly signing away its constitutionally granted duty to regulate commerce with foreign nations. That is right in the Constitution. Under Fast Track procedure, Congress loses any opportunity to negotiate, amend, or improve the Bush administration's misguided trade policy.

We have seen what happens when Congress hands the reins over to the executive branch. When we look at our soaring trade deficit and our ravaged middle-class communities, we see how Congress could have improved each one of the trade agreements we were forced to consider as a whole under what was called Fast Track. It is like a fast ball through here that you can't even amend.

The Commerce Department just released an example of the Bush administration's horrendous leadership on this issue. The first quarter account for 2007 is another \$193 billion deficit in the red, which totals 5.7 percent of GDP, a total drag on economic growth in this country. And, in fact, this quarter's debt is larger than the last quarter of 2006. The red ink keeps getting deeper every single quarter.

Our national security is forced to take a back seat to foreign investment while workers lose their pensions and their health benefits or their jobs, and illegal immigrants scramble across our borders attempting to flee the destruction caused by our failed trade policies in those countries. This should not be happening.

When Congress reclaims our power to amend trade agreements, we can use trade policy in a manner to level the